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Sport for peace and development: building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal

Letter dated 7 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith an appeal issued by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation to international parliamentary organizations and the parliaments of the States Members of the United Nations to support United Nations efforts to promote peace and fulfil the ideals of the "Olympic Truce" (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 11.

(*Signed*) V. **Churkin**

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Annex to the letter dated 7 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Appeal by the State Duma to international parliamentary organizations and the parliaments of the States Members of the United Nations to support United Nations efforts to promote peace and fulfil the ideals of the "Olympic Truce"

The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, expressing its full solidarity with the efforts of the United Nations, the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee, calls upon international parliamentary organizations and the parliaments of the States Members of the United Nations to provide them with all necessary and effective support for the dissemination and strengthening of Olympic traditions and ideals.

One of the most striking and symbolic of the Olympic traditions is undoubtedly the ancient tradition of the "Olympic Truce", which, through the centuries, has retained its humanitarian significance and profound meaning. This is especially relevant today, when the world needs to find ways to resolve existing crises, including those arising from ethnic and sectarian strife, as well as inter-State conflicts. It is particularly important that this call be heard by all parties to the conflict in Syria.

At a time when the best athletes of the States taking part in the international Olympic and Paralympic movement are meeting in sports arenas, when millions of fans, as well as boys and girls who are still preparing themselves to set future athletic records, are cheering for their sports idols, there should be no place for violence, inhuman acts of terrorism or any manifestations of hatred or enmity. Guns should fall silent when the ideals of sport and friendship win over the minds and hearts of people on every continent. This time — the time of the Olympic and Paralympic Games — has been and should remain a time of peaceful competition in an atmosphere of genuine Olympic friendship and camaraderie.

The Deputies of the State Duma launch an appeal to international parliamentary organizations and the parliaments of the States Members of the United Nations to do everything in their power to ensure that the strict observance of the "Olympic Truce" in February and March 2014, during the XXII Olympic Winter Games and the XI Paralympic Winter Games in Sochi, will become a tangible and visible manifestation of the common aspiration of all peace-loving people to resolve all conflicts through political means.

The promotion of the values and ideals of the "Olympic Truce" should bring hope to those who today are victims of internal conflicts and acts of terrorism and those suffering from the effects of humanitarian disasters, drone attacks, ethnic cleansing and disasters caused by wars and fighting.

Sport serves as an ambassador for peace, health, education, prosperity and cooperation. It is within our power to ensure that this motto will now become a reality.

(*Signed*) S.Y. **Naryshkin**
Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly
of the Russian Federation

Moscow
24 January 2014